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Haverhill Urban District

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1951



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Haverhill Urban District for the Year 1951.

The Vital Statistics show no trend of any significance and none of the Notifiable Diseases reached epidemic proportions.

Special attention was paid to the clean handling of food, particularly milk, and notices requesting that dogs should not be taken into food shops were supplied.

The condition of much of the property in the older part of the town is extremely poor and the time when it will have to be replaced is approaching.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the year. My sincere thanks are due, too, to Mr. W. C. Blake, the Clerk of the Council, and to Mr. F. J. East, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value	£19,604
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£74 19s. 6d.
Rates	17s. 6d.
(County Rate 10s. 11d., U.D.C Rate 6s. 7d.)	
Number of inhabited houses	1,493
Estimated population	4,109
Census 1951	4,096

The industrial activities of the town are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready-made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Electrical plant is manufactured and other factories produce steam ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins and marquees are also manufactured.

There are no industries or occupations that are likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

SECTION B.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year).

Live Births :

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(37)	32	(26)	20	(63)	52
Illegitimate	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3)	0
Totals	(37)	32	(29)	20	(66)	52

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	12.7
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ...	15.5
Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births (4.5%)	0%

Still Births : Nil.

Deaths :

	Total		Male		Female	
	(68)	60	(30)	26	(38)	34
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	(16.8)	14.6
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...		11.2
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.6)					12.5
Deaths resulting from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion						Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Total		Male		Female	
Legitimate	(3) 5	(2) 1
Illegitimate	—	—
Totals	...	(3)	3	(2)	1	(1) 2

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	(42.4)	57.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				(47.4)	57.5
" " " " (England and Wales)					29.6

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Disease	Male		Female		Total
Cancer (all types)	...	(6) 2	...	(7) 9	(13) 11
Diabetes	...	(1) 1	...	(0) 0	(1) 1
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(3) 3	...	(8) 2	...	(11) 5
Heart Disease	...	(10) 9	...	(10) 12	(20) 21
Pneumonia	...	(2) 3	...	(4) 6	(6) 9
Bronchitis	...	(1) 0	...	(0) 0	(1) 0
Influenza	...	(0) 4	...	(0) 0	(0) 4
Ulcer of stomach & deudenum	(1) 0	...	(1) 0	...	(2) 0
Motor vehicle accidents	(0) 1	...	(1) 0	...	(1) 1
Other Accidents	(0) 1	...	(2) 1	...	(2) 2
Other and ill-defined diseases	(3) 2	...	(4) 4	...	(7) 6
Total	...	(28) 26	...	(37) 34	(65) 60

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1951 :—

	1941	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
Birth Rates	13.2	12.8	15.6	19.8	16.5	16.8	21.9	15.5	15.2	15.8	12.7
Death Rates	14.7	13.8	13.8	14.9	15.1	13.9	17.5	12.5	13.7	16.8	14.6

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no alterations to report in any of the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
- (b) Mr. F. J. East, of Haverhill, is Surveyor, Housing Officer and Sanitary Inspector. Mr. East holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers, the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I. Examination Joint Board.

Hospitals :

There are no hospitals within the area.

Ambulance facilities:

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

Nursing in the Home :

District Nurses are supplied for nursing and midwifery duties.

Infant Welfare :

A welfare clinic is held twice monthly (2nd and 4th Thursdays) and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the Pump House is 279.50 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from the chalk and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep, with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South; there are 3 boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from surface level, one through the South heading 10½ inch diameter and another 18 inch diameter through the North heading to a depth of 350 feet and 360 feet from surface level.

A test pump when the 18 inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below the surface level.

Pumping Machinery :

The water is raised by deep well three throw pumps in duplicate (suction levels 100 feet below surface level) and one reciprocating type borehole pump (suction level 175 feet below surface level) each delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. The power is obtained from 24 B.H.P. Crossley Diesel Oil Engines in duplicate.

During the year a vertical spindle centrifugal pump of 15,000 g.p.h., powered by a 37 H.P. electric motor, was installed in the 18 inch borehole together with a new chlorinator of the liquid gas type. This is automatically controlled and allows the attendant to be free when required to give closer attention to the distribution system. Since this pump has been in operation there have been no difficulties in supplying all the water required.

A new 8 inch rising main has also been laid from the new pump to the reservoir.

There is a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 150,000 gallons, equal to nearly one day's consumption, with a top water level of 350 above O.D.

As building development takes place on higher ground round the outskirts of the town it will be found that the elevation of the reservoir is insufficient to give the required pressure.

Number of Dwelling Houses Connected with Mains :

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	...	...	...	1429
(b) Outside the area...	..	...	...	19
Length of mains	8 miles

Number of houses not connected to mains :

(a) Within reach	..	...	...	...	—
(b) Not within reach	...	...	...	...	15

The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses)	9%
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Purity of the Water :

Frequent samples are sent for bacteriological examinations. There has been no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here.

The water shows no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The following is a copy of a Bacteriological Examination of a sample of water by the :

Counties Public Health Laboratories,
66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1

Number of Colonies developing on

Agar per c.c. or ml. in	...1 day at 37° C.	2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 20° C.
	0	0	5
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	Absent from	100 ml.
Bact. coli	Present in	Absent from	100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in	Absent from	100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water carries no excess of mineral constituents in solution but is extremely hard in character. The hardness is not such as to render the supply unwholesome but it will make it disadvantageous for laundry and similar use. The water is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Apart from the objectionable hardness the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(signed) GORDON MILES.

For the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The chemical examination showed little variation from previous analyses.

The water is chlorinated.

Water Charges :

The charges for water are 1/5d. per 1000 gallons with reductions on quantity.

1/8d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- p.a.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1947 to 1951 inclusive :—

1947	{ Maximum level, April	210.10ft. above O.D.	
	{ Minimum level, December	198.25ft. „ „	
1948	{ Maximum level, March	202.00ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, January	197.40ft. „ „	
1949	{ Maximum level, March	200.55ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, October	193.75ft. „ „	
1950	{ Maximum level, March	200.50ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, November	193.65ft. „ „	
1951	{ Maximum level, May	208.75ft. „ „	
	{ Minimum level, January	197.00ft. „ „	

The average daily consumption of water per head was 38 gallons.

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years as compared with 1951 :—

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
JAN.	2.07	1.38	0.81	3.64	1.56	1.48
FEB.	3.53	3.49	1.11	0.91	1.64	1.70
MAR.	3.30	0.45	0.75	0.90	4.47	1.42
APRIL	3.07	1.73	1.44	1.80	1.80	0.90
MAY	2.51	2.07	2.76	3.00	0.48	1.57
JUNE	1.57	1.05	0.82	2.89	2.98	2.59
JULY	0.98	3.07	0.91	2.00	1.93	4.94
AUG.	2.88	1.70	1.39	4.01	0.12	3.50
SEPT.	2.78	3.02	0.51	1.27	1.13	2.84
OCT.	1.08	0.57	4.64	1.62	0.24	1.86
NOV.	3.87	4.07	1.72	1.69	1.25	4.00
DEC.	1.56	1.37	1.70	1.50	2.75	2.57
Totals	29.20	23.97	18.56	25.23	20.35	29.37

Snow or rain was recorded on 183 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. September 27th ; when 0.86 inch was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 29.20 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the Town, the dimensions are 75ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 12/- for Adult season ticket and 6/- for Juniors, 9d. for Adults and 4d. for Juniors admission. 35 Adult and 157 Junior Season tickets were sold. In addition 3,341 Adults and 3,564 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for use of Schools during the Summer term.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the east side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 7 acres of land, all underdrained ; three acres are terraced.

The Pumping Plant consists of Diesel Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour:

Number of dwelling houses connected with sewers ...	1396
Number of dwelling houses not connected with sewers ...	58
(None of which is within reach of the sewers).	

House Scavenging :

Collections are made weekly from about 1,500 premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

The provision of sanitary dustbins was made compulsory in 1938

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of Inspections	289
Number of Statutory Notices served	3
Number of Informal Notices served	37

Housing :

During the year 3 3-bedroom houses and 4 Duplex flats were completed on the Duddery Hill site, 8 3-bedroom houses and 8 Duplex flats at Parkway, also 6 2-bedroom bungalows at Priory Avenue.

A further 14 3-bedroom houses were under construction at Duddery Hill. The Council now own :—

259 3-bedroom houses
12 2-bedroom bungalows
16 1-bedroom bungalows
12 Duplex flats
10 prefabricated 2-bedroom bungalows
11 Army huts converted into 2-bedroom dwellings
11 other houses purchased by the Council

Total 331

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1951 is shown in the following table :—

TABLE I.

	.41	.42	.43	.44	.45	.46	.47	.48	.49	.50	.51
Diphtheria ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	5	10	1	1	10	3	—	—	—	4	4
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles... ..	213	—	42	—	2	11	1	251	—	—	31
Whooping cough	32	—	18	—	—	4	1	5	3	44	13
Pneumonia ...	8	6	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	258	16	65	9	12	20	2	256	4	49	49

No deaths resulted from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever or Measles. Whooping Cough was the cause of one death.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1		1				2		
1-2			1	3		4		
3-4			6	1	10	3		
5-9	1	1		2	2	10		
10-14								
15-24								
25+		1						1
Unknown								

SECTION G.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	8	3	11	3	1	4	15
No. of cases added during the year	2	3	5	—	—	—	5
No. of cases removed during year	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
No. remaining on register at end of year	10	5	15	3	1	4	19

The reason for removal from register was death.

There were no deaths of non-notified cases.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	10	12			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	35	41	4		2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	3	10			3
TOTAL		48	63	4		

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1				4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	1	1				9
(a) insufficient	10	4	1		1		10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11						11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12						12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)							
TOTAL	60	6	3		1		60

Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork :

60 persons are recorded as doing out work. All are employed in the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No cases arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

